



Congressman Steve Scalise

Louisiana's First Congressional District

For Immediate Release

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Scalise: \$625 Million Authorized for New Orleans VA Hospital

(Washington D.C.) – Congressman Steve Scalise last night voted in support of a bill that authorizes funding to rebuild the VA Hospital that was made inoperable during Hurricane Katrina. Previously, \$625 million had been appropriated for the project, but only \$300 million was authorized. The VA Medical Facility Authorization and Lease Act that Scalise supported will bring the authorization to \$625 million.

“Our military veterans served our country with honor, and our country needs to treat them with honor when they return home,” Scalise said. “It is time to begin rebuilding the VA Hospital so our veterans do not have to travel long distances to get basic care. Now we have the federal dollars authorized to move forward. The men and women who have sacrificed so much for our nation deserve access to quality health care. I will work hard to serve our military veterans in the United States Congress.”

The Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Authorization and Lease Act that passed the U.S. House of Representatives last night amends legislation from 2006 that had \$300 authorized for the New Orleans VA Hospital.

Louisiana is home to over 250,000 veterans and the facility will serve over 40,000 Southeast Louisiana veterans. Congressman Scalise was recently appointed to the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

###

Contact: Luke Bolar
202-226-4309